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HEALTH ADVICE

BROMYARD URBAN DISTRICT

Herefordshire

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

Public Health Inspector

for the year 1959

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MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December 1959)

F.M. Wilkes	Chairman of the Council
R.A. Pullen	Vice-Chairman of the Council
D.H. Evans	
H.R. Hartwright	
D.R.G. Morris	
J. Oliver	
M.J. Peto, M.B., Ch.B., D.Obst.	Chairman of the Water Supply Committee
Mrs. E.C. Powell	
H. Robinson	Chairman of the Highways, Buildings, Public Health and Lighting Committee
G.T. Ross	
F.J. Wall	Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

Clerk to the Council .. L.A. Flint

G.D.K. NEEDHAM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Westfield Walk,

LEOMINSTER.

(Telephone: Leominster 2049)

A.A. MAXWELL, M.A.P.H.I.,

Public Health Inspector,

Surveyor's Office,

BROMYARD.

(Telephone: Bromyard 2147)

To the Chairman and Members of the Bromyard Urban District Council

Madam Chairman, Gentlemen,

I herewith present my Annual Report for the year 1959.

In general little of note occurred during the year from the Public Health point of view.

The chief problem was the water shortage due to the long dry summer. This was prevented from becoming total by filtering and pumping river water, but at no time could one have absolute confidence that there would not be a complete cessation of supply.

As a result of this experience it was decided by the Council that the best way to get water in ample quantity would be to connect the town supply mains to the proposed comprehensive scheme of the Bromyard Rural Council, and I was instructed to put this point to the Ministry Inspector at the enquiry held by him into that proposed scheme. This was done and the Inspector said that there would be no doubt that the needs of the Bromyard U.D. were of great importance and that they were one of the chief reasons why the scheme should proceed. It is hoped, therefore, that the newly formed Herefordshire Water Board will be able to proceed with this comprehensive scheme with the full support of both Councils and of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

I wish to thank Mr. Maxwell for completing much of this report, and for his help during the past year, and to Mr. Preece in my office in Leominster for providing the statistical section.

G.D.K. NEEDHAM

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	213
Estimated mid-year home population	1,700
Average number of persons per acre	8.0
Number of inhabited houses	597
Average number of inhabited houses per acre ..	2.8
Average number of persons per house	2.8
Rateable Value	£17,623
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£66

LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS

Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate ..	6	15	21
Illegitimate ..	-	-	-

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Bromyard U.D. (Crude)..	12.4	21.9	12.9	14.4	16.9
" " (Adjusted)	13.1	23.2	13.7	15.4	18.1
England and Wales ..	16.5	16.4	16.1	15.7	15.0

Illegitimate Live Births

Per cent of total live births:

Bromyard U.D. ..	Nil
England and Wales	5.1

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate ..	-	-	-
Illegitimate ..	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births:

	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Bromyard U.D. ..	Nil	Nil	120.0	Nil	Nil
England and Wales ..	21.0	21.6	22.4	23.0	23.1

INFANT DEATH RATES

Neonatal Mortality

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

INFANT DEATH RATES (Continued)

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Bromyard U.D. ..	Nil
England and Wales	15.8

Perinatal Mortality

Still Births and Deaths of Infants under one week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate ..	-	-	-
Illegitimate ..	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Bromyard U.D. ..	Nil
England and Wales	34.2

Infant Mortality

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age (including those under 4 weeks)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate ..	-	1	1
Illegitimate ..	-	-	-

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births:

		1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Bromyard U.D.	(Total	47.6	27.0	45.4	41.7	Nil
	(Legitimate	47.6	27.0	50.0	43.5	Nil
	(Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
England & Wales	(Total	22.2	22.5	23.1	23.7	24.9
	(Legitimate	*	22.3	22.8	23.5	24.6
	(Illegitimate	*	27.8	30.0	28.7	31.7

* figures not yet available

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Total number of Maternal Deaths .. Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Bromyard U.D. ..	Nil
England and Wales	0.32

DEATHS

	Males	Females	Total
Total number of deaths from all causes:	12	15	27

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Bromyard U.D. (Crude)..	15.9	14.2	16.5	10.2	11.4
" " (Adjusted)	14.5	12.9	15.0	9.3	9.6
England and Wales ..	11.6	11.7	11.5	11.7	11.7

Cancer

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Malignant Disease:	2	4	6

Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Bromyard U.D. ..	3.53	1.77	1.18	4.19	1.80
England and Wales ..	2.14	2.12	2.09	2.08	2.10

Cardio-Vascular Disease

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Cardio-Vascular Disease:	7	7	14

Cardio-Vascular Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Bromyard U.D. ..	8.22	8.88	10.59	3.59	7.23
England and Wales ..	5.88	6.07	5.84	6.00	5.99

Respiratory Disease (excluding Tuberculosis)

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Respiratory Disease:	1	1	2

Respiratory Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Bromyard U.D. ..	1.18	0.59	1.76	2.36	0.60
England and Wales ..	1.53	1.37	1.38	1.35	1.32

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

	Males	Females	Total
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	-	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	3	5
Coronary disease, angina ..	3	1	4
Other heart disease	1	3	4
Other circulatory disease ..	1	-	1
Pneumonia	-	1	1
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1	1
Accidents, other than motor vehicle	1	2	3
Suicide	1	-	1
TOTAL	12	15	27

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

No action needed to be taken under this section during the year.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - BROMYARD URBAN DISTRICT

Disease	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Whooping Cough	-	-	2	-	19
Measles	2	1	32	31	2
Scarlet Fever	5	2	1	-	1
Erysipelas	2	-	1	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	2	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	-	-
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	1	-	2	-	1
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	1	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis:					
Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic	-	-	1	-	-

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE

Disease	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Whooping Cough	38	39	192	87	104
Measles	388	258	144	561	649
Scarlet Fever	46	28	71	42	33
Erysipelas	4	2	7	8	6
Acute Pneumonia	33	14	49	20	20
Dysentery	3	16	38	7	6
Food Poisoning	3	5	10	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	1
Paratyphoid Fever	-	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	2	3	2	3
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	13	7	33	19	28
Non-Pulmonary	2	3	4	6	9
Acute Poliomyelitis:					
Paralytic	-	-	12	1	2
Non-Paralytic	-	-	14	-	3
Malaria (Contracted abroad)	-	-	-	-	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE
DURING THE YEAR 1959.

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough	5	1	7	6	2	-	1	3	1	1	3	8	38
Measles	82	117	60	30	33	42	20	3	-	-	1	-	388
Scarlet Fever	-	8	2	2	5	9	4	3	-	3	4	6	46
Erysipelas	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	4
Acute Pneumonia	2	6	15	5	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	1	33
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3
Food Poisoning	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	-	1	1	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	13
Tuberculosis Non-Pulmonary	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2

COMPARATIVE CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	North Here-fordshire	England & Wales
Whooping Cough	0.99	0.73
Measles	10.16	11.88
Scarlet Fever	1.20	1.05
Erysipelas	0.10	0.07
Acute Pneumonia	0.97	0.59
Dysentery	0.08	0.78
Food Poisoning	0.08	0.22
Tuberculosis:		
Pulmonary	0.34	0.54
Non-Pulmonary	0.05	0.06

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number on Register at 31st December, 1958	7	2	1	4
New cases notified	-	1	-	-
Moved out of district	-	-	-	1
Number on Register at 31st December, 1959	7	3	1	3

Year	New Notifications	Total cases on Register	Deaths	Recoveries
1955	2	11	Nil	1
1956	1	11	Nil	Nil
1957	3	11	Nil	2
1958	Nil	14	Nil	Nil
1959	1	14	Nil	Nil

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946, Section 26

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Vaccination and Immunisation are a County Council responsibility, and the figures given below have been kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

Numbers of children in the district who were immunised during the year:

Immunisation against	Age of child			Total	Reinforcing Injections
	Under 1	1-4	5-14		
Diphtheria	28	10	4	42	35
Whooping Cough	25	8	-	33	-

Numbers of children in the district who were vaccinated against Smallpox during the year:

Vaccination against Smallpox	Age of child					Total	Revacc-inations
	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2-4	5-14	15& over		
	19	2	-	1	-	22	1

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTION

WATER SUPPLY

Number of houses connected to the water supplied by the Local Authority 597

The supply has remained fairly constant, but it cannot be termed as really satisfactory, and the problem of drought causes much concern in view of the increased installation of baths etc., and the construction of new houses: the condition of many of the mains also gives cause for alarm. The public do not always realise the difficulties involved in keeping a sufficient supply available, if water does not reach the baths etc., on the first floor it is the Local Authority's fault, but they do not realise that in the past 10 years the water consumption for this area has risen from 45,000 gallons per day to 120,000 gallons per day, and no new sources have been available to augment the supply.

During the year water from the river had to be used and a filtration plant was hired. Much difficulty was experienced due to the use of second-hand pumps, but the Council's employees managed to maintain the supply.

The samples of water submitted for bacteriological examination proved satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Number of houses			
Connected to public sewers	Connected to private disposal works	Using pail or earth closets	Without satisfactory means of disposal
577	8	6	6

During the year the plans and draft of a new sewage disposal plant to replace the Fourberries were in course of preparation by the Consulting Engineers and were later submitted to the Ministry for approval. At the end of the year the Council were awaiting notification by the Minister.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Frequency .. .. Once weekly

Method .. .. Kerbside collection into a Karrier Bantam refuse collector.

Disposal of refuse .. Controlled tipping.

The highways are cleansed daily and gulleys are disinfected after emptying.

The public conveniences are also cleansed regularly.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The type of refuse collected in the area is the usual household garbage and ashes, but a number of people insist on putting wet refuse, e.g. tea leaves, in their bins. It is regretted that little co-operation is forthcoming from these people.

Some householders in the area do not realise that combustible material should be burned. The amount of refuse collected shows that, especially to those living in Council houses, the term "Burn your refuse and save the rates" has little effect.

The types of containers used in many instances are very poor, and in these instances the householders have been advised to use proper dustbins.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Total Numbers of Inspections

Public Health Acts	
Obstructed drains and sewers ..	8
Drainage and sewer tests ..	14
General Nuisances:	
Dwellinghouses	6
Other premises	4
Cleanliness of houses	1
Keeping of animals	1
Infestation (except rodents) ..	1
Disinfection	6
Water supply	51
Moveable dwellings	2
Public Cleansing Service	
Refuse Collection	21
Refuse Disposal	52
Cesspools	5
General Inspections	
Dwellinghouses	28
Hotels and Places of entertainment ..	30
Public Conveniences	52
Others	9
Housing Acts	
Improvement Grants	2
Housing Consolidated Regulations	10
Re-inspections	28
Overcrowding	2
Certificates of Disrepair ..	Nil
Rehousing applications ..	8
Housing Survey	12
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	
Visits	18
Re-visits	36
Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948	
Part I	18
Shops Act, 1950	32
Food and Drugs Act	
Fried Fish shops	12
Butchers shops	106
Bakehouses	36
Grocery and General stores ..	80
Greengrocers and Fishmongers ..	21
Hotel and Catering Kitchens ..	18
Other food preparing or serving premises	18
Confectionery shops	21
Ice-cream sellers	34
Licensed Premises	18
Slaughterhouses	108
Market	52
Food delivery vans	8

Summary of Repairs and Sanitary Improvements

Interior of Houses	
Sinks renewed	6
Sash cords repaired and windows repaired ..	12
Doors repaired or renewed ..	7
Chimney flues repaired ..	5
Defective gas pipes repaired ..	12
Burst water or defective water pipes repaired ..	103
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	4
Steps taken to combat dampness	2
Proper lighting and ventilation of food store ..	2
Exterior of Houses	
Gutters renewed or repaired ..	3
Leaking roofs repaired ..	7
Rainwater pipes renewed or repaired	4
Defective chimney pots repaired	5
Walls repointed	2
Yard pavings repaired	Nil
Outbuildings repaired	2
Drainage	
Choked drains and sewers cleared	16
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	4
Manholes repaired	2
Choked W.Cs. repaired	6
New inspection chambers installed	2
Sanitary Conveniences	
Flushing cisterns renewed or repaired ..	12
W.C. pedestals renewed ..	1
W.C. roofs repaired	1
W.C. doors repaired	1

FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION

Milk Registration and Licensing

Three dealers are registered in the urban district. No complaints were received or action taken during the year.

Meat Inspection

There is only one slaughterhouse in the district which us being used regularly, the other being used only intermittently. They are both licensed under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, but with the new regulations re construction, layout, and equipment of slaughterhouses it is obvious if these are to continue they will require extensive and expensive alterations to conform with the regulations. At the one slaughterhouse alterations are now taking place.

FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION (Continued)

Meat Inspection (Continued)

The position at the slaughterhouses are that one man slaughters only for his own small shop, and at the other the owner slaughters for his two local shops and also a shop which he owns in Hereford. A butcher whose premises are in the rural district also uses this slaughterhouse.

During the year, 134 visits were made to inspect the meat and offal and also when casualties were brought in for slaughtering.

Four persons are licensed to slaughter animals under the Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933-54. None of the licences extend to the slaughter of horses.

The method of meat inspection is carried out in accordance with the Ministry of Food, Memo. 3/Meat, inasfar as is reasonably practicable.

Carcases and Offal found unfit in whole or in part and surrendered:-

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	375	21	84	1671	368
Number inspected	375	21	84	1671	368
All diseases except Tuberculoses & Cysticerci					
Whole carcases condemned ..	-	-	1	3	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	185	17	1	268	41
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned ..	-	-	-	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	3	-	1	-	4
Cysticercosis					
Whole carcases or carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-

FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION (Continued)

Meat Inspection (Continued)

Unsound meat surrendered:

Abscesses	68 lb.
Actinobacillosis	4 lb.
Bilateral Pyelonephritis	75 lb.
Bone Taint	28 lb.
Distomatosis	202 lb.
Inflammation	18 lb.
Oedema	12 lb.
Parasites	78 lb.
Septicaemia	30 lb.
Tuberculosis	85 lb.
Bruising	218 lb.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Only two visits were made specifically under this Act during the year. However, other visits were made under other laws, such as the Food Hygiene Regulations.

FOOD HYGIENE

Types of Food Premises in the district

Bakehouses	4
Cafes and Canteens	14
Grocers and General Stores ..	14
Greengrocers	5
Retail Fishmongers	2
Fried Fish Fryers	1
Sweet Shops	5
Butchers	5
Licensed Premises	10

During the year 36 visits were made to Bakers, 106 to Butchers shops, and 12 to the Fried Fish shop.

Foodstuffs Condemned

The following was surrendered by traders:-

31	tins	Pork	103	tins	Tomatoes
40	"	Corned Beef	98	"	Peas
51	"	Assorted Meat Products	2	"	Bilberries
14	"	Grapefruit	65	"	Evaporated Milk
9	"	Fruit Salad	12	"	Pears
12	"	Oranges	1	"	Creamed Rice
14	"	Peaches	22	"	Fish Products

56 lb. Sausage Rusk	28 lb. Cube Sugar
12 lb. Lard	7 lb. Ground Almonds
8 lb. Butter	

Ice-Cream

All ice-cream sold in the district is pre-packed and stored under hygienic conditions.

HOUSING

Slum Clearance Programme

No action was taken during the year.

The Rent Act, 1957

Although this Act did not cause any considerable amount of work there were many inquiries to be dealt with, and interviews with owners.

Housing Statistics

1 (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts	55
(b)	Number of inspections made	132
2 (a)	Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(b)	Number of inspections	12

Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notice:

(a)	Number of houses rendered fit through informal action	10
(b)	Number of defective houses (excluding those in (a)) in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action	11

Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

1 Proceedings under Sec. 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936.

(a)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(b)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	Nil

2 Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

(a)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(b)	Number of houses where defects were remedied after service of formal notice	Nil

3 Proceedings under Sec. 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(a) Number of representations made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation	3
(b) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(c) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..	1
(d) Action under Sec. 10 and 11 of the Local Government (Misc. Provisions) Act, 1953, dwelling-houses closed	Nil
(e) Undertaking not to use for human habitation accepted and houses demolished voluntarily	4

4 Proceedings under Sec. 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 .. .. Nil

5 Proceedings under Part III of the Housing Act, 1936

(a) Number of ClearancesAreas represented during the year	Nil
(b) Number of houses included in these areas	Nil
(c) Number of persons to be displaced ..	Nil
(d) Action taken during the year in respect of Clearance Areas:	
(1) by Clearance Order, number made	Nil
(2) By Compulsory Purchase Order ..	Nil
(e) Number of houses in Clearance Areas demolished during the year	Nil
(f) number of houses vacated during the year	Nil
(g) Number of persons rehoused from houses demolished during the year	Nil
(h) Number of families rehoused from Clearance Areas	Nil

6 Housing Act, 1936 (Part IV) Overcrowding.

(a) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(b) Number of cases relieved during the year	1
(c) Number of persons concerned	5

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The routine inspection of premises under this Act was carried out, and one complaint was received from H.M. Inspector of Factories. This was remedied.

Action taken during the year:

(a) Want of cleanliness.....1 Remedied.....1

(b) Defective conveniences...3 Remedied.....3